

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01402 192227Z

60

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01

DRC-01 /162 W

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R 192130Z APR 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3667

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1402

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA EGEN PFOR BY

SUBJ: EASUM/SIMBANANIYE CONVERSATION AT USUN

1. FONMIN SIMBANANIYE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME WITH ASST. SECY. EASUM EXPLAINING THAT BURUNDI HAS NO EXISTING INTERNAL PROBLEMS-- ETHNIC, RACIAL, OR OTHERWISE; THAT BURUNDI HAS BEEN MADE A TARGET BY THE INT'L PRESS AND HAS BEEN PLOTTED AGAINST BY "COLONIALIST POWERS". HE SAID IN THE PAST THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MASSACRES "WHICH WERE THE WORK OF COLONIALISTS" BUT THAT THESE HAVE CEASED AND THERE IS NO LIKELIHOOD THEY WILL BE REPEATED UNLESS "AGGRESSION FROM ABROAD" RESULTS.

2. SIMBANANIYE ADMITTED THERE ARE ABOUT 40 THOUSAND BURUNDI REFUGEES, "LOST CHILDREN", AS HE CALLED THEM, IN TANZANIA MAINLY. HE SAID THEY ARE WELCOME AT ANY TIME TO COME HOME, EXCEPT FOR THOSE THAT ARE MURDERERS OR WHO COME WITH MACHETES. THE MINISTER MENTIONED IN PASSING BURUNDI'S DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE WORLD BANK HAD DECIDED NOT TO FINANCE A BURUNDI DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND HE HOPED THIS WILL BE REINSTITUTED IN THE FUTURE. HE SAID THIS DECISION WAS CAUSED BY THE FALSE PICTURE OF BURNDI PRESENTED TO THE WORLD BY THE INT'L

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01402 192227Z

PRESS AND "THE COLONIALISTS" WHO CONTINUE TO CONSPIRE AGAINST

THE GOVT.

3. EASUM EXPLAINED THE RATIONALE FOR OUR DECISION TO
NORMALIZE OUR RELATIONS WITH BURUNDI, NOTING THAT THE DECISION
HAD PRODUCED SOME CRITICISM FROM THE PRESS. EASUM SAID IT
WOULD BE UP TO BURUNDI TO PROVE THAT THIS DECISION WAS
JUSTIFIED.
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